This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A method for storing data, comprising:

associating a cluster with a plurality of storage groups;

designating a storage group preference order for data sets associated with the cluster, wherein the storage group preference order is identified with a storage group preference statement that designates a list of eligible storage groups for the data sets and the order in which the eligible storage groups are to be used; and

when a request to store a data set for the cluster is received, selecting one of the plurality of storage groups using the storage group preference order.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein selecting one of the storage groups further comprises:

selecting one of the storage groups using the storage group preference order and storage space availability in each of the plurality of storage groups.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

providing a preference setting statement for use in designating the storage group preference order.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presetting a preference setting so that the storage group preference order is used.

5. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein a storage group preference policy includes the preference setting statement.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing the data set for the cluster in a storage device in the selected one of the storage groups.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data set comprises one of a newly created data set and an extended data set for which storage space is being allocated.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storage group comprises a sub storage group.

9.   (Previously Presented) A system for storing data, comprising:

means for associating a cluster with a plurality of storage groups;

means for designating a storage group preference order for data sets associated with the cluster, wherein the storage group preference order is identified with a storage group preference statement that designates a list of eligible storage groups for the data sets and the order in which the eligible storage groups are to be used; and

means for when a request to store a data set for the cluster is received, selecting one of the plurality of storage groups using the storage group preference order.

10.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein selecting one of the storage groups further comprises:

means for selecting one of the storage groups using the storage group preference order and storage space availability in each of the plurality of storage groups.

11.   (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for providing a preference setting statement for use in designating the storage group preference order.

12.   (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for presetting a preference setting so that the storage group preference order is used.

13.   (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein a storage group preference policy includes the preference setting statement.

14.   (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for storing the data set for the cluster in a storage device in the selected one of the storage groups.

15.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the data set comprises one of a newly created data set and an extended data set for which storage space is being allocated.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the storage group comprises a sub storage group.

17.   (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising one of hardware logic and a computer readable medium encoded with instructions for storing data, wherein the instructions cause operations to be performed, the operations comprising:

associating a cluster with a plurality of storage groups;

designating a storage group preference order for data sets associated with the cluster, wherein the storage group preference order is identified with a storage group preference statement that designates a list of eligible storage groups for the data sets and the order in which the eligible storage groups are to be used; and

when a request to store a data set for the cluster is received, selecting one of the plurality of storage groups using the storage group preference order.

18.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein operations for selecting one of the storage groups further comprise:

selecting one of the storage groups using the storage group preference order and storage space availability in each of the plurality of storage groups.

19.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, the operations further comprising:

providing a preference setting statement for use in designating the storage group preference order.

20.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, the operations further comprising:

presetting a preference setting so that the storage group preference order is used.

21.   (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 19, wherein a storage group preference policy includes the preference setting statement.

22.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, the operations further comprising:

storing the data set for the cluster in a storage device in the selected one of the storage groups.

23.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the data set comprises one of a newly created data set and an extended data set for which storage space is being allocated.

24.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the storage group comprises a sub storage group.